

REMARKS

Objections to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because they did not show a vernier as claimed in dependent claims 8 and 9. Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled and, therefore, the Examiner's objection to the drawings in this regard has been overcome.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings because the reference character 33 has been used in the description and claims to designate both a circular scale and a window. The drawings have been amended to change the reference character for the window to 31. The drawings have also been amended to show the time zone scale 33. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Objections to the Specification

As requested by the Examiner, the specification has been amended to provide headings for sections.

The Examiner has carefully and thoughtfully identified a number of informalities in the specification. In view of the Examiner's objections, the specification has been amended, albeit occasionally not as originally suggested by the Examiner. Nonetheless, the Applicants thank the Examiner for her thoughtful consideration.

The specification has been amended to provide consistency in terms, such as "slot 70" as per pg. 7, line 20 (vs. diaphragm or opening), and "origin 47" as per pg. 6, line 16 (vs. index mark). The Examiner suggested using the term "index mark" instead of "origin," but, in our opinion, the term "origin" reduces the possibility for confusion with "index 48," which is on the back side of the watch.

As requested by the Examiner, the element designated by reference numeral 44 has been referred to consistently as a rotatable ring throughout the specification and claims. Although the Examiner suggested using the term "rotating," as it appeared in the translation, the term "rotatable" more accurately describes the device since the ring is not always rotating, but can be rotated. Hence, "rotatable" is a better descriptor.

Accordingly, "bezel 44" on pg. 9, line 20 has been amended to "rotatable ring 44."
Finally, on pg. 9, line 26, "scale 44" has been changed to "longitude scale 45."

For clarity, since there are a number of scales in the specification, when referring to scale (33), the specification has been amended to "time zone scale 33," scale (45) is now referred to as "longitude scale 45."

Claim 15 recites associating the Fig. 5 prism device with a watchband. Therefore, the specification has been amended to added a statement to the description on pg. 9, line 15. Also, for ease of discussion, the Fig. 5 device has been named the "prism device" and assigned reference numeral (61), accordingly.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 9 as lacking antecedent basis. However, the Examiner's objection is now moot since the claim has been canceled.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner objected to claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being incomplete. The Examiner suggested amending Claim 1 to recite the case (10) and back cover (40). Claim 1 has been amended accordingly.

Allowable subject matter


The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 as being obvious in view of Barrett (US 428,588). The Examiner also rejected claim 2 as being obvious in view of Barrett and Jang (US 6,134,186). Finally, the Examiner rejected claim 10 as being obvious in view of Barrett and Vaucher (US 5,253,225).

The Examiner has identified claims 11-15, 4 and 5-7 as being allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 4, while claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. The Applicants thank the Examiner for identifying the allowable subject matter.

At the same time, Applicants have amended the claims to improve readability and for consistency with the clarifying amendments made to the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that no new subject matter has been introduced by way of these amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Deborah G. Vandenhoff
Agent for the Applicant
Registration No. 45,176

Van Tassel & Associates
P.O. Box 2928
Bellaire, TX 77402-2928
Ph: (713) 839-1749
Fax: (713) 839-1790